

Under My Skin **By Lorraine Viade, PsyD**



Run. Don't walk over to the Pasadena Playhouse for a great new experience in comedy. If you like risqué but not vulgar fun, *Under My Skin* has just the prescription for you. This play has a great group of actors whose faces all look familiar. Leading the way is Hal Linden who is a charming old mench of a grandfather whose ailing health is just one of the subjects of this timely treatise to what is needed in the way of true healthcare reform. Aside from a little bit of common sense, *Under My Skin* offers some hilarious moments while poking fun at gender differences and approaching health care through the filters of both personal and social responsibilities.

Ladies, if you ever wondered how a man would take to certain procedures that are generally reserved for women or transgenders, this is your chance to live vicariously as these characters get a chance to reverse roles and perspectives on these timely matters. Anyone who has ever been insured, lost their coverage, or had to take care of an elderly relative can relate to the themes spotlighted here.

There are lots of surprises and so as not to spoil the fun for you, I can only say that I laughed more at this play than I did at *The Book of Mormon*. While this is certainly an adult comedy with relevant themes, you can take aunt Tillie and Grandpa Joe along and they won't be offended. The cast is outstanding in getting buy in from the audience. I could relate to everyone in the story as symbolic of how very differently we view life across our different ages and across socio-economic strata.

Male and female, young and old, we are all connected by the fact that we have bodies that break down and that may need to be treated. Who has access to what type of healthcare and how that access could change has been and will continue to be a topic of debate and ongoing controversy. I am not talking about folks who come from other countries, as that is a different subject than the one explored here. I am talking about the average U.S. citizen, living paycheck to paycheck with little chance for advancement and much less if serious illness occurs.

I encourage all of us who enjoy the benefits of good L.A. County healthcare plans to go, see this play and count your many blessings while you have a great time. Discount tickets for weekday performances are now available through www.goldstar.com. These tickets are well worth the full price and I can say, as a season subscriber to the playhouse, *Under My Skin* is one of the best productions I have seen there. *Under My Skin* is at the Pasadena Playhouse for just a few short weeks. Don't miss it!!

I give *Under My Skin* 5 couches

